



# COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

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## CEREAL STATISTICS

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1960

**SCOPE** This Bulletin shows details of the South Australian cereal and hay harvests for the year ended 31st March, 1960, as obtained from the annual collection of Agricultural and Pastoral Statistics.

**SEASONAL CONDITIONS** Preliminary figures show the average rainfall over agricultural areas for the crop growing period April-November, 1959, as 6.22 inches which is 0.61 inches below the previous record dry season of 6.83 inches in 1914. Average rainfall for the corresponding period in 1958 was 14.21 inches whilst the mean for the 54 years to 1958 is 12.85 inches.

**SUMMARY OF AREAS AND YIELDS** The estimate of the combined wheat, barley and oats yields for 1959/60, contained in my "Cereal Harvest Forecast" Bulletin, issued in January of this year, was 25,950,000 bushels. Actual yield for these three cereals was 26,290,655 bushels; being a decrease of 55,398,224 bushels from the record production of 1958/59. For the first time since the 1955/56 season, the wheat yield exceeded that for barley.

The following table shows information concerning areas and yields of crops for 1959/60.

TABLE 1. - CROPS: AREAS AND YIELDS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1959/60

Crop	Area (a)	Yield (b)	Yield per Acre
	Acres	Bushels	Bushels
Wheat for Grain	1,549,499	11,928,966	7.70
Barley for Grain	1,289,936	11,857,192	9.19
Oats for Grain	505,499	2,504,497	4.95
Rye for Grain	37,414	125,205	3.35
Field Peas for Grain	26,907	58,449	2.17
		Tons	Tons
Hay (all kinds)	245,299	206,413	0.84

(a) Including crops which failed. (b) Excluding weight of bags.

The 1959/60 yields per acre compare favourably with other years in which there was an abnormally low rainfall during the crop growing period.

Yield per acre comparisons for selected years, when rainfall during the crop growing period was abnormally low, are shown below.

TABLE 2. - CEREAL YIELDS: SELECTED YEARS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Season	Average Rainfall Apr.-Nov.	Average Yield per Acre			
		Wheat	Barley	Oats	Hay (all kinds)
	Inches	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Tons
1914/15	6.83	1.41	6.75	2.62	0.47
1929/30	8.79	6.40	15.25	5.63	0.82
1940/41	8.19	6.97	10.14	3.87	0.98
1944/45	9.16	5.70	8.85	3.94	0.74
1957/58	8.67	11.20	14.48	8.01	1.05
1959/60	6.22(a)	7.70	9.19	4.95	0.84

(a) Preliminary

AREAS SOWN  
FOR ALL  
PURPOSES

The following table shows acreages sown for all purposes (grain, hay and green fodder) for the seasons 1956/57 to 1959/60, together with farmers' estimates of areas which they intended sowing for the current 1960/61 season. The maximum area sown to wheat was 4,507,213 acres in 1930/31 when only 267,369 acres were under barley. Since that date there has been a general upward trend in barley acreages matched by a decline in those for wheat but this trend was temporarily reversed in 1959/60. For the 1930/31 season the acreage under barley was 5.9 per cent of that under wheat. In 1958/59 it was 93.6 per cent, decreasing to 82.6 per cent in 1959/60.

The increase in areas intended to be sown in 1960/61 together with the good growing conditions, which have prevailed during the winter indicate that wheat, barley and oats harvests for 1960/61 should each exceed the levels of 1958/59.

TABLE 3. - AREAS SOWN FOR ALL PURPOSES: SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
(ACRES)

Crop	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60	1960/61(a)
Wheat	1,480,676	1,411,406	1,459,859	1,605,420	1,925,992
Barley	1,248,648	1,271,434	1,367,059	1,325,689	1,582,953
Oats	843,481	874,908	845,052	813,426	1,032,596
Rye	52,777	45,827	65,371	44,726	(b)
Field Peas	34,640	44,304	36,880	30,331	28,203

(a) For 1960/61, acreage is that intended to be sown when details were collected in the autumn.

(b) Not available.

WHEAT

The 1959/60 wheat harvest of 11,928,966 bushels averaged 7.70 bushels per acre, compared with 32,032,232 bushels with a record average yield per acre of 22.76 bushels, in 1958/59. The wheat harvest for 1959/60 was the smallest since 1944/45. Record wheat production in South Australia was 48,093,102 bushels in 1931/32 when the average yield was 11.81 bushels per acre.

Areas, yields and yields per acre, relating to South Australian wheat production for the years 1955/56 to 1959/60, are shown below.

TABLE 4. - WHEAT: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60
Total Area	Acres	1,678,298	1,480,676	1,411,406	1,459,859	1,605,420
Grain Area	Acres	1,609,029	1,438,289	1,331,302	1,407,413	1,549,499
Yield	Bush.	28,891,524	31,431,547	14,213,288	32,032,232	11,928,966
Yield/acre	Bush.	17.96	21.85	11.20	22.76	7.70

Of the 1,549,499 acres sown to wheat for grain during the 1959/60 season, 958,661 acres were on fallowed land yielding 8,907,153 bushels, and averaging 9.29 bushels per acre. The remaining 590,838 acres not on fallowed land yielded 3,021,813 bushels at an average of 5.11 bushels per acre.



Varieties of wheat sown for all purposes for the years 1957/58 to 1959/60 are shown in the following table.

TABLE 5. - WHEAT: VARIETIES SOWN, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Variety	Area (acres)			Proportion of Total Area (per cent)		
	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60
Bencubbin (a)	77,873	65,172	51,403	5.52	4.46	3.20
Bungulla	9,134	5,188	2,936	0.65	0.35	0.18
Claymore	24,297	69,401	100,576	1.72	4.75	6.26
Dirk (a)	229,755	243,239	252,509	16.28	16.66	15.73
Dundee (a)	15,359	14,094	4,723	1.09	0.96	0.29
Gabo	322,057	337,344	353,485	22.82	23.11	22.02
Glucub	3,365	2,297	1,485	0.24	0.16	0.09
Gluyas	8,177	2,906	1,829	0.58	0.20	0.11
Insignia (a)	254,989	260,522	354,567	18.07	17.84	22.09
Javelin (a)	54,535	48,154	45,096	3.86	3.30	2.81
Kendee	12,163	6,891	5,004	0.86	0.47	0.31
Marathon	8,750	4,891	4,370	0.62	0.34	0.27
Pinnacle	23,152	24,078	34,584	1.64	1.65	2.15
Quadrat	17,757	14,540	11,811	1.26	1.00	0.74
Rapier (a)	21,484	19,837	19,414	1.52	1.36	1.21
Reldep	12,040	8,002	5,523	0.85	0.55	0.35
Sabre	137,297	157,137	170,775	9.73	10.76	10.64
Scimitar (a)	69,434	61,687	48,315	4.92	4.23	3.01
Sword	10,458	6,533	6,314	0.74	0.45	0.39
Waratah	6,827	3,881	2,259	0.48	0.27	0.14
Warigo	6,745	4,406	4,085	0.48	0.30	0.26
Wongoondy	9,373	21,551	44,352	0.66	1.48	2.76
Yande	13,808	13,606	11,339	0.98	0.93	0.71
Other (incl.unspec.)	62,577	64,502	68,666	4.43	4.42	4.28
Total Wheat	1,411,406	1,459,859	1,605,420	100.00	100.00	100.00

(a) Includes back cross.

**BARLEY** The barley yield for 1959/60 of 11,857,192 bushels was the lowest recorded since 1946/47 and is 25,807,300 bushels less than the record production of 37,664,492 bushels in 1958/59. The average yield per acre declined from 28.27 bushels in 1958/59, to 9.19 bushels in 1959/60.

The following table shows details relating to South Australian Barley production for the years 1955/56 to 1959/60.

TABLE 6. - BARLEY: AREA & PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60
Total Area	Acres	1,067,661	1,248,648	1,271,434	1,367,059	1,325,689
Grain Area	Acres	1,041,806	1,221,737	1,211,762	1,332,473	1,289,936
Yield	Bush.	24,597,979	34,002,876	17,551,669	37,664,492	11,857,192
Yield/acre	Bush.	23.61	27.83	14.48	28.27	9.19

Barley sown for grain in 1959/60 totalled 1,289,936 acres; 1,233,534 acres of 2 row yielding 11,463,315 bushels, and 56,402 acres of 6 row 393,877 bushels.

The varieties of barley sown for all purposes for the years 1957/58 to 1959/60 are shown below.

TABLE 7. - BARLEY: VARIETIES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Variety	Area (acres)			Proportion of Total Area (per cent)		
	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60
2 Row - Maltworthy	233,837	239,163	229,540	18.39	17.49	17.31
Prior	874,179	959,624	945,848	68.76	70.19	71.35
Research	23,765	18,949	18,055	1.87	1.39	1.36
Other 2 Row	63,587	67,618	64,691	5.00	4.95	4.88
6 Row - All kinds	76,066	81,705	67,555	5.98	5.98	5.10
Total Barley	1,271,434	1,367,059	1,325,689	100.00	100.00	100.00

OATS The oats yield of 2,504,497 bushels for 1959/60 was the lowest recorded since 1944/45 and is 9,488,018 bushels less than the record production of 11,992,515 bushels in 1958/59. The average yield per acre declined from 24.93 bushels in 1958/59 to 4.95 bushels in 1959/60.

Details of oats production in South Australia for the years 1955/56 to 1959/60 are shown below.

TABLE 8. - OATS: AREA &amp; PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60
Total Area	Acres	841,936	843,481	874,908	845,052	813,426
Grain Area	Acres	425,026	427,192	427,366	481,076	505,499
Yield	Bush.	7,280,340	8,314,296	3,422,525	11,992,155	2,504,497
Yield/Acre	Bush.	17.13	19.47	8.01	24.93	4.95

Varieties of oats sown for all purposes for the seasons 1957/58 to 1959/60 are as follows:-

TABLE 9. - OATS: VARIETIES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Variety	Area (Acres)			Proportion of Total Area (per cent)		
	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60
Algerian	85,911	80,914	69,718	9.82	9.58	8.57
Ballidu	63,021	48,851	48,669	7.20	5.78	5.98
Belar	22,045	13,977	9,238	2.52	1.65	1.14
Dale	19,283	14,250	12,547	2.20	1.69	1.54
Fulghum	102,081	93,893	82,433	11.67	11.11	10.13
Guyra	11,223	6,014	2,977	1.28	0.71	0.37
Kherson (inc. Early)	294,576	281,302	267,736	33.67	33.29	32.91
Mulga	27,027	16,239	10,787	3.09	1.92	1.33
New Zealand Cape	75,303	88,149	79,606	8.61	10.43	9.79
Orient	126,201	139,287	139,454	14.42	16.48	17.14
Other (incl. unspec.)	48,237	62,176	90,261	5.52	7.36	11.10
Total Oats	874,908	845,052	813,426	100.00	100.00	100.00

RYE During 1959/60 the area of rye sown for all purposes was 44,726 acres.

The 37,414 acres sown for grain yielded 125,205 bushels; being a decrease of 321,039 bushels from the 1958/59 total. The average yield per acre for the 1959/60 season was 3.35 bushels compared with 7.81 bushels in 1958/59.



**FIELD PEAS** From 26,907 acres planted for grain in 1959/60, 58,449 bushels were reaped; the lowest production since 1944/45. In 1958/59 517,812 bushels were obtained from 33,540 acres. In the autumn, farmers indicated that they intended sowing 28,203 acres in 1960/61.

Of the 30,331 acres sown for all purposes in 1959/60, 4,139 acres were sown to Collegian, 20,313 acres to Dun, 4,532 acres to White Brunswick, and other varieties totalled 1,347 acres.

**HAY** The yield of hay (all kinds) in 1959/60 was 206,413 tons from 245,299 acres which is the smallest production recorded since 1896/97. The record area and yield was 1,100,217 tons from 709,813 acres in 1915/16.

A summary of Areas and production of hay for the years 1955/56 to 1959/60 is shown below.

TABLE 10. - HAY: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
<u>Area</u>					
Wheaten	61,524	36,618	71,517	50,283	52,076
Oaten	139,325	107,725	100,545	162,762	118,149
Other	124,824	154,451	118,864	206,521	75,074
All Kinds	325,673	298,794	290,926	419,566	245,299
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
<u>Yield</u>					
Wheaten	91,422	60,914	72,092	85,343	43,082
Oaten	191,767	160,520	89,793	273,279	74,710
Other	177,632	231,836	142,209	312,905	88,621
All Kinds	460,821	453,270	304,094	671,527	206,413
<u>Yield per Acre</u>					
Wheaten	1.49	1.66	1.01	1.70	0.83
Oaten	1.38	1.49	0.89	1.68	0.63
Other	1.42	1.50	1.20	1.52	1.18
All Kinds	1.41	1.52	1.05	1.60	0.84

**CEREALS USED ON FARMS** During 1959/60, increased quantities of wheat, barley, oats and hay were used on farms for feed purposes as compared with 1958/59; the increases being most marked for barley and oats.

The following table shows details of cereals and hay used on farms for seed and feed purposes during the years 1958/59 and 1959/60.

TABLE 11. - CEREALS USED ON FARMS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1958/59		1959/60	
		Seed	Feed	Seed	Feed
Wheat	Bushels	1,739,687	862,713	1,827,804	900,306
Barley	"	1,678,723	1,715,005	1,623,021	2,040,487
Oats	"	1,062,147	2,793,317	969,105	3,458,932
Hay	Tons	-	335,961	-	357,559

Farmers have reported that 1,665,351 bushels of wheat were retained on farms for 1960 seeding, and that 735,210 bushels were being kept for feed purposes.

**CROPS IN STATISTICAL DIVISIONS.** The following table shows area, yield and yield per acre for each crop in statistical divisions in South Australia during the year 1959/60. The rainfall for each division is obtained by weighting the recorded rainfall in crop-growing counties within the division by the area under crop in these counties and represents the average rainfall over agricultural areas during the crop growing period April-November, 1959.

TABLE 12. - CROPS: AREA AND YIELD, STATISTICAL DIVISIONS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1959/60. .

	Unit	Central	Lower North	Upper North(a)	South Eastern	Western	Murray Mallee	Whole State
<b>GRAIN -</b>								
<b>Wheat</b>								
Area	acres	230,181	421,176	110,946	28,580	571,740	186,876	1,549,499
Yield	bush.	2,621,460	3,861,333	946,725	439,917	2,936,877	1,122,654	11,928,966
Ave. Yield	bush.	11.39	9.17	8.53	15.39	5.14	6.01	7.70
<b>Barley</b>								
Area	acres	409,938	249,598	25,003	37,990	262,275	305,132	1,289,936
Yield	bush.	4,575,409	1,848,679	186,639	511,961	2,167,852	2,566,652	11,857,192
Ave. Yield	bush.	11.16	7.41	7.46	13.48	8.27	8.41	9.19
<b>Oats</b>								
Area	acres	71,134	94,322	15,258	37,097	224,708	62,980	505,499
Yield	bush.	656,956	406,544	58,908	539,146	578,265	264,678	2,504,497
Ave. Yield	bush.	9.24	4.31	3.86	14.53	2.57	4.20	4.95
<b>Rye</b>								
Area	acres	799	729	27	289	1,344	34,226	37,414
Yield	bush.	3,564	2,550	18	1,725	3,192	114,156	125,205
Ave. Yield	bush.	4.46	3.50	0.67	5.97	2.38	3.34	3.35
<b>Field Peas</b>								
Area	acres	17,277	8,044	157	637	617	175	26,907
Yield	bush.	42,549	10,350	-	3,198	2,302	50	58,449
Ave. Yield	bush.	2.46	1.29	0.00	5.02	3.73	0.29	2.17
<b>HAY (all kinds)</b>								
Area	acres	95,485	40,771	6,400	51,464	29,552	21,627	245,299
Yield	tons	100,192	16,611	3,829	53,314	14,560	17,907	206,413
Ave. Yield	tons	1.05	0.41	0.60	1.04	0.49	0.83	0.84
RAINFALL (b)	ins.	7.19	6.01	5.90	8.76	5.83	5.38	6.22